A Committee of senior officers of Railway Board has been constituted to study various recommendations made in the Report. The Committee is yet to submit its Report. Further action will be initiated on receipt of the report of this Committee.

Punctuality of trains

3443. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that punctuality performance of trains has been declining constantly, over the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the actual punctuality performance during the last three years, year-wise and the specific reasons identified for the reported downward trend in different Railway Zones; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve better punctuality to adhere to the railway time-table?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed (See below;

(c) The following steps are being taken to improve the punctuality performance of trains:

1. Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all the three levels *viz.* Divisional, Zonal Head Quarters and Railway Board.
2. Punctuality drives are being conducted by nominating officials to monitor trains.
3. Running of trains at maximum permissible speed subject to observance of safety limits and speed restriction.
4. Improvement in standard of maintenance to reduce equipment failures.
5. Counselling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running.
6. Liaison with State Government to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities.

Statement

Punctuality of trains

The decline in the punctuality performance of trains on Indian Railways (Right Time basis) during the last 3 years has been marginal as under:—

GAUGE	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Broad Gauge	90.2%	88.5%	88.1%
Metre Gauge	98.1%	97.5%	97.1%

The rail way-wise punctuality performance of during the last year o NLT (Not Losing Time basis) is as under:—

Railway	Gauge	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
CR		91.6	92.1	94.8
ER		79.4	81.9	83.0
SER		94.2	95.5	96.4
NR	BG	93.6	86.3	90.2
	MG	98.4	98.2	98.3
NER	BG	98.6	89.8	81.7
	MG	100	100	100
NFR	BG	93.7	'89.7	92.6
	MG	99.8	99.2	98.4
SR	BG	96.6	95.2	96.1
	MG	97.4	96.6	96.1
SCR	BG	96.6	96.8	97.1
	MG	98.3.	98.0	98.2
WR	BG	97.6	97.1	97.3
	MG	98.9	98.7	98.8

The reasons for decline in the punctuality performance of trains on Zonal Railways include factors which are beyond the control of railways such as miscreant activities, agitations, Law and Orders problems in the context of the Railways becoming soft targets for terrorist attack, bad weather, alarm chain pulling, accidents, cattle run over and power grid failures.